

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended herein. Claims in the instant case are Claims 1-25.

102 Rejection

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pickett (USPN: 6,154,465) and Pickett (USPN: 6,181,694). The Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-25 are not anticipated by either Pickett in view of the following rationale.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

“...A computer network, comprising:
...one or more network servers, each connected with one or more of said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices, each connection via a single cable, wherein signals between said work center devices and said network servers are multiplexed in said cabling and said single cable.”

Independent Claims 9 and 15 recite similar limitations. Claims 2-8 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 10-14 that depend from independent Claim 9 and Claims 16-25 that depend from independent Claim 15 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Applicants have reviewed the references and respectfully assert that Pickett and the claimed invention are very different. Applicants understand Pickett to teach a platform and various processes that include the bridging of multiple devices (a TDM bus and a packet bus) to generate a system by which voice and data transmissions may be intelligently managed and controlled (col. 2, lines 27-32 of both references). The system is coupled to WAN voice/data networks through multiple trunks (col. 6, lines 63-67 of USPN 6,154,465 and col. 4, lines 49-554 of USPN 6,181,694).

In contrast, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed toward “one or more network servers, each connected with one or more ... powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices, each connection via a single cable, wherein signals between said work center devices and said network servers are multiplexed in said cabling and said single cable”(emphasis added). With reference to Figure 3 of the present invention, multiplexing device 301 is a single device having a single cable 100 connecting the work center devices (via connection jacks 304) with a network server 104.

Applicants respectfully assert that Pickett does not teach, disclose, or suggest a computer network server connected with an intelligent “multiplexing device, each connection via a single cable” (emphasis added), as claimed. In contrast, Pickett discloses, in both US 6,154,465 and 6,181,694, an intelligent multiplexing system connected to networks through multiple trunks.

Moreover, Claim 6 of the present invention teaches an embodiment that is directed to the computer network of Claim 1, "wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices are enabled to be coupled wirelessly to said work center devices (emphasis added). Nowhere does Pickett, in either reference, teach or suggest enabling an intelligent multiplexing device for coupling to work center devices by means of wireless connections. Pickett only teaches wired connections. Clearly Pickett does not teach enabling an intelligent multiplexing device for coupling to work center devices by means of wireless connections as taught in Claim 6.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does Pickett, in either US 6,154,465 or US 6,181,694, teach, disclose or suggest the claimed embodiments of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 and that these claims are thus in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Pickett also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 2-8 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 10-14 that depend from independent Claim 9, and Claims 16-25 that depend from independent Claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-25 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and are in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 1-25, as amended herein, overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of these Claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants further point out that no contested Claims remain in the present Application.

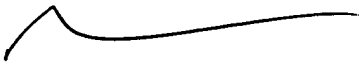
Applicants have reviewed the following reference which was cited but not relied upon and do not find this reference to show or suggest the present claimed invention:US/6,389,009.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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